



CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS MINUTES

Date: Thursday, October 3, 2024, 1 pm – 3 pm

Recording link: Available by email request to CChomelesscouncil@cchealth.org

Council Member Attendance:

- In-Person (13): Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Hope Dixon; Iman Novin; Janae Thomas; Jazmin Ridley; Juno Hedrick; Leslie Gleason; Nicole Green; Tony Ucciferri; Wayne Earl
- Remote (4): Deanne Pearn; Jo Bruno; Mia Fairbanks; Shawn Ray
- Absent (2): Jai De Lotto; Yahel Moreno

Staff Attendance: Jaime Jenett, H3; Jamie Schecter, H3; Mark Mora, Homebase

Community Member Attendance:

- In-person: Richard Blue, Community Member; Leanne Mathews, Community Member; Elaine Cortez Schroth, Contra Costa Crisis Center; Jaclyn Tummings, Contra Costa County; Melanie Erickson, Contra Costa County DCD; Laronette Perry, Contra Costa County Health; Laronette Perry, Contra Costa County Health; Anya Hushwah, H3; Jill Ray, Supervisor Candace Anderson's Office
- Remote: Colleen Monahan, All Home; Theresa Karr, CA Senator Bill Dodd; Rena Moore, CAB and Safe Return Project; Christine Wetzel, Caminar; Leng Power, City of Concord; Gerry La Londe-Berg, Community Member; Sara B, Community Member; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla, Community Services Bureau; Salvador Morales, Contra Costa; Colleen Awad, Contra Costa County; Peter Myers, Contra Costa County; Gina Bills, CCCOE; Denise Clarke, Contra Costa County Office of Education; Elizabeth Winstead, Department of Rehabilitation; Michelle Giolli, Contra Costa County Watershed Program; Kelsey Mayeda, Diablo Valley College, San Ramon Campus; Donovan Brosas, El Cerrito Police Department; Brianna Ramos, Fresh Lifelines for Youth; Ralph Payton, GRIP; Brittany Ferguson, H3; Caroline Miller, H3; Cheryl Leonor, H3; Christy Saxton, H3; Ernesto Robles, H3; Kate Horsting, H3; Natalie Siva, H3; Shaun August Salas, H3; Shelby Ferguson, H3; Yessenia Aguilar, H3; Daisha Williams, H3, CORE; Mariah Davis, H3, CORE; Alex Michel, Homebase; Michele Byrnes, Homebase; Riley Meve, Homebase; Sarah Ahmed, Homebase; Vanessa Spinazola, Homebase; Jazzman Cardona, Hope Solutions; Kristin Kane, Kaiser Permanente; Carmen Cano, Lao Family Community Development; Courtney Pal, Resources for Community Development; Antoinette Smith, SHELTER, Inc.; Christi Rossi, SHELTER, Inc.; Geneva Johnson, SHELTER, Inc.; Idaleen Alvarez (Alicia Alferez), SHELTER, Inc.; James Randolph, SHELTER, Inc.; Kathryn Ross, SHELTER, Inc.; Selenia Charles, SHELTER, Inc.; Shayne Kaleo, SHELTER, Inc.; Janny Castillo, SOS Richmond; Chinue Fields, Urban Tilth; Verneda Clapp, WDBCCC; Carmella Kowall, Winter Nights Family Shelter Inc.; Anastasia Lockwood, Youth Action Board



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Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
1:00	1. <u>Call to Order</u> – Chair starts the meeting	a. Wayne Earl, <i>Chair and Faith Community Representative</i>
- Wayne Earl called the meeting to order.		
1:00	2. <u>Introductions</u> a. Hybrid Meeting Norms b. Roll call of Council members and introduction of guests c. Poll – Who’s in the room?	a. Wayne Earl, <i>Chair and Faith Community Representative</i> b. Wayne Earl, <i>Chair and Faith Community Representative</i> c. Wayne Earl, <i>Chair and Faith Community Representative</i>
<p>a. Wayne Earl went over the hybrid meeting norms and guidelines to help ensure that meetings are conducted in a safe and respectful environment that encourages participation and inclusivity.</p> <p>b. Wayne Earl conducted a roll call of Council members and invited guests to introduce themselves in the chat.</p> <p>c. Wayne Earl conducted the poll activity called “Who is in the room?” with the purpose of getting a sense of who is attending the meeting. The poll was conducted via Zoom poll. All answers are anonymous, and the results are provided below:</p> <p>1. Question 1: How many Council on Homelessness meetings have you attended?</p> <p>Answer: This is my first meeting: 7 (23%) I’ve attended some meetings: 8 (27%) I’ve attended a lot of meetings: 15 (50%) I prefer not to answer: 0 (0%)</p> <p>2. Question 2: Do you have lived experience of homelessness?</p> <p>Answer: Yes, currently 4 (12%) Yes, within the past 7 years 0 (0%) Yes, more than 7 years ago 7 (21%) No 22 (67%) I prefer not to answer 0 (0%)</p> <p>3. Question 3: What best describes your racial identify?</p> <p>Answer: African American/Black 8 (17%) American Indian/Alaskan Native 4 (9%) Asian/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian 3 (6%) Hispanic/Latinx 10 (21%) White 15 (32%) Multi-racial 5 (11%)</p>		



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	I describe myself in another way	1 (2%)
	I prefer not to answer	1 (3%)
1:19	3. <u>Public Comment</u> – Open period for members of the public to comment on items not listed on the agenda.	a. Members of the public
- No comments.		
2:10	4. <u>Consent Calendar (ACTION ITEM)</u> a. APPROVE minutes from the September 5, 2024 Council meeting. b. APPROVE staff report for the October 3, 2024 Council meeting.	a. Wayne Earl, <i>Chair and Faith Community Representative</i>
<p>Motion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Motion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To approve the consent calendar items as listed above. • Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ None. • Procedural Record <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion made by: Nicole Green ○ Seconded by: Dani Jimenez ○ AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Dani Jimenez; Deanne Pearn; Gabriel Lemus; Hope Dixon; Iman Novin; Jazmin Ridley; Juno Hedrick; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Wayne Earl ○ NOES: None ○ ABSTAINS: Janae Thomas; Tony Ucciferri ○ ABSENT: Jai De Lotto; Yahel Moreno 		
1:25	5. <u>Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity Update</u> a. (ACTION ITEM) Approve FY2024 and FY 2025 CoC NOFO Priority Listing of projects as recommended by the Review & Rank Panel	a. Riley Meve, Alex Michel, and Max Mora, <i>Homebase</i>
<p>a. <u>CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)</u>: Homebase provided an update on the competition process for the Continuum of Care (CoC) of Notice of Funding Opportunity. The presentation covered the background, estimated available funding, local review and rank process, recommended priority listing developed by the Review and Rank Panel, appeals process, and the Council approval process of the priority listing. It was explained that the competition is now held every other year, and the usual competition processes will not be held in full next year. A total of six new projects were submitted but only four were recommended as total</p>		



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exceeded funding amount available to the CoC. All projects, new and renewal, are ranked together and fall into either tier 1 or tier 2 of the priority listing, with tier one projects likely to be funded and tier two projects less certain. The Review and Rank Panel, made up of non-conflicted members of the Council on Homelessness, scored and ranked all applications. No appeals to the preliminary priority listing were made. The panelists shared their experiences and expressed gratitude for being part of the process. One of the COH members recommended to expand and support the interest of new projects to enter the competition moving forward. Deanne Pearn highlighted that Project Home SAFE from Hope Solutions is a DV Bonus project and asked to have it corrected on the priority listing.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC NOFO Priority Listing of projects as recommended by the Review and Rank panel.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record
 - Motion made by: Jazmin Ridley
 - Seconded by: Shawn Ray
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Dani Jimenez; Gabriel Lemus; Hope Dixon; Janae Thomas; Jazmin Ridley; Juno Hedrick; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Wayne Earl
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: Deanne Pearn; Iman Novin; Leslie Gleason; Tony Ucciferri
 - ABSENT: Jai De Lotto; Yahel Moreno

Mark explained the remaining steps in the Continuum of Care competition process, including submitting project applications, posting the full application for public review, and submitting the final consolidated application to HUD.

1:40	<p>6. <u>Committee Report Outs- report outs from each of the committees below.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Homelessness Awareness Month Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. (ACTION ITEM) REVIEW and APPROVE Recognition recommendations and proclamation language as recommended by the Homelessness Awareness Month Committee b. Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hope Dixon, <i>Community Member Representative</i> and Juno Hedrick, <i>Lived Experience Advisor</i> b. Caroline Miller, <i>H3</i> and Juno Hedrick, <i>Vice Chair and Lived Experience Advisor</i>
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a. Homelessness Awareness Month Committee:

Hope presented a list of the upcoming events for the months of November and December, including a presentation to the Board of Supervisors, a recognition event, a youth panel at a college, and a



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memorial event in December. The recognition process was described and the list of names for the following categories was shared: Outstanding Partnership, Outstanding Volunteers, Outstanding Landlord, and Phoenix Rising. The council voted to approve the recommendations and the proclamation for the recognition event.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve the recognition recommendations and proclamation language as recommended by the Homelessness Awareness Month Committee.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record
 - Motion made by: Carolyn Foudy
 - Seconded by: Tony Ucciferri
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Dani Jimenez; Deanne Pearn; Gabriel Lemus; Hope Dixon; Iman Novin; Jazmin Ridley; Juno Hedrick; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Tony Ucciferri; Wayne Earl
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: None
 - ABSENT: Jai De Lotto; Yahel Moreno

b. Youth Advisory Board (YAB):

Caroline Miller reported that the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) has finalized reviewing the community needs assessment for youth and young adult homelessness and it will be released next month. YAB continues to work with young people on leadership development and working on their bylaws. YAB has received a lot of invitations to present at different agencies and events such as Homeless Awareness month, Contra Costa College as well as at Regional Youth Action Board in San Francisco, hosted by Tipping Point and facilitated by Homebase. An invitation will be sent out to the community to participate with YAB to put their input into the ending results of the Youth Homelessness and Demonstration Project once it is known whether YAB gets awarded the project or not. The group is also working on deepening their connections and networking skills.

1:45	7. <u>Old Business</u> a. Funding Updates	a. Jamie Schechter and Christy Saxton, <i>H3</i>
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a. Funding Updates:

Jamie Schechter provided updates on the Housing and Home Services Request for Proposal (RFP), previously known as Measure X. Based on feedback received in the summer, the following changes have been implemented: more clarification in the interview process and who gets offered an interview, inclusion of people with lived experience in the process of reviewing and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, additional language and bullet points to emphasize what the County's funding priorities are, more time for submission deadline, and using a different bidding platform. The RFP's



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release target date was October 4th with a deadline at the end of November. Anyone interested in receiving email notifications and updates for Funding Opportunities can sign up for the newsletter [here](#). Jamie also included funding updates on the CoC Builds NOFO program aimed to provide funding to acquire, build, or rehabilitate projects into Permanent Supportive Housing. The total funding is \$175 million dollars and communities may only submit one project proposal. H3 can apply for up to \$7.5 million. The overall timeline was shared, and the application deadline is November 21st, 2024. A total of 12 agencies submitted letter of interest. This and other grant opportunities can be found at this [site](#). Additionally, it was announced that H3 was awarded for the Transitional Living Program (TLP) from the US Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. The program is aimed to provide services for youth ages 18 to 21 to help them establish self-sufficiency and have sustainable living. The total funds awarded is \$250,000, which is non-competitive continuation funds available for up to five years. Lastly, the opening for El Portal Place, a 54-unit building of permanent housing, will be coming very soon. This program was funded by Homekey, with Contra Costa Housing Authority providing 25 housing stability vouchers.

2:05	<p>8. <u>New Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Presentation: Grants Pass Supreme Court Decision and California Executive Order N-1-24 b. Nomination For County Administrator’s Office (CAO) Innovation Fund Panel (7 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. (ACTION ITEM) APPROVE interested Council on Homelessness members’ nomination to the Measure X Innovation Fund Review Panel c. Learning Corner: Legistar (Agenda Posting) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Vanessa Spinazola, Sarah Ahmed, and Michele Byrnes, <i>Homebase</i> b. Jamie Schecter, <i>H3</i> c. Jamie Schecter, <i>H3</i>
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a. Presentation: Grants Pass Supreme Court Decision and California Executive Order N-1-24: Sarah Ahmed gave an overview of the Supreme Court's Grants Pass ruling, which upheld public camping bans under the 8th Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. The California's Executive Order N-124 was also summarized with state agencies and departments being subject to Governor’s authority, while non-state agencies being encouraged to adopt policies consistent with Caltrans' encampment approach. Michele proceeded to talk about the ruling's negative impacts on homelessness and the criminal legal system and discussed action steps that can be taken to decrease the impact such as educating officials, involving those with lived experience in decision-making, connecting with legal services providers, and expanding permanent housing capacity through non-carceral, person-centered programs. Furthermore, addressing racial inequities, advocacy with legal service provider partners, and a coordinated narrative against criminalization are needed. It was emphasized that The Grant’s Pass Decision doesn’t require local governments to enforce or create laws making sleeping outside or camping a crime. As part of questions and answer period from members and attendees, the following opinions/facts were discussed: a trend of encampments dispersed across the County was seen after a ruling, making it difficult to maintain relationships with those in need and who are displaced; a claim of an uptick in San Francisco's homeless population due to enforcement, and obtain some real data to refute this; an increased number of new faces in San Pablo, the need to hold



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people's belongings for 60 days, a case with legal implications by arresting someone who was living in a park near a hospital where the person was receiving cancer treatment; and the potential use of HMIS to track people who may be losing contact.

b. Nomination for County Administrator’s Office (CAO) Innovation Fund Panel:

Jamie discussed the Measure X Innovation Fund from the County Administrator's Office and the need for nominees for the review panel that will select proposals for the planning phase and recommendations for awarding up to \$1.95 million in Innovation grants. The reviewal and selection process will take place between October 2024 and January 2025. Nicole Green and Dani Jimenez were nominated to join the panel.

Motion

- State of Motion:
 - To approve interested Council on Homelessness members’ nomination to the Measure X Innovation Fund Review Panel.
- Discussion:
 - None.
- Procedural Record
 - Motion made by: Leslie Gleason
 - Seconded by: Hope Dixon
 - AYES: Alejandra Chamberlain; Carolyn Foudy; Dani Jimenez; Deanne Pearn; Gabriel Lemus; Hope Dixon; Iman Novin; Jazmin Ridley; Juno Hedrick; Leslie Gleason; Mia Fairbanks; Nicole Green; Shawn Ray; Tony Ucciferri; Wayne Earl
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINS: None
 - ABSENT: Jai De Lotto; Yahel Moreno

c. Learning Corner: Legistar (Agenda Posting):

Jamie shared the transition to a new platform for posting meeting agendas, effective from October 1st. The new platform offers a different format for the landing page and agenda, but reminders on Constant Contact and posting requirements remain the same. The old platform, Agenda Center, will still be accessible for previous meeting materials. Legistar allows for easier navigation and access to older materials through keyword search. The team encouraged attendees to reach out to H3 for assistance in navigating the new system.

2:55	9. <u>Announcements</u>	a. All
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- a. General Announcements:
- Jo Bruno shared that The Housing Justice Storytelling Initiative program has posted a video about stories of Bay Area residents who have experienced housing insecurity. Anyone interested in the program can visit their website [here](#).



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2:59	10. <u>Pin It</u>	a. Wayne Earl, <i>Chair and Faith Community Representative</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next COH meeting will be on November 7th, from 1:00 – 3:00pm at 1025 Escobar Street in Martinez.• A list of upcoming meetings was shared and will also be sent via email.		



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Commonly Used Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
APR	Annual Performance Report (for HUD homeless programs)
BIPOC	Black and Indigenous People of Color
CARE	Coordinated Assessment and Resource
CCYCS	Contra Costa Youth Continuum of Services
CDBG, CDBG-CV	Community Development Block Grant (federal and state programs) and the federal Community Development Block Grant CARES Act coronavirus allocation.
CESH	California Emergency Solutions and Housing program (state funding)
Continuum of Care (CoC)	Continuum of Care approach to assistance to the homeless. Federal grant program promoting and funding permanent solutions to homelessness.
Con Plan	Consolidated Plan, a locally developed plan for housing assistance and urban development under CDBG.
CORE	Coordinated Outreach Referral, Engagement program
COVID-19	Coronavirus
DCD	(Contra Costa County) Department of Conservation and Development
DOC	Department Operations Center
EHSD	(Contra Costa County) Employment and Human Services Division
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
ESG and ESG-CV	Emergency Solutions Grant (federal and state program) and the federal Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act coronavirus allocation.
ESG-CV	Emergency Solutions Grant CARES
FMR	Fair Market Rent (maximum rent for Section 8 rental assistance/CoC grants)
HCD	Housing and Community Development (State office)
HEAP	Homeless Emergency Aid Program (State funding)
HEARTH	Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009
HHAP	Homeless Housing and Assistance Program
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HOME	Home Investment Partnerships (CPD program)
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (federal)
MHSA	Mental Health Services Act
NOFA/NOFO	Notice of Funding Availability/ Notice of Funding Opportunity
PHA	Public Housing Authority
PUI	Persons Under Investigation
PWLE	People With Lived Experience of Homelessness
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
SRO	Single-Room Occupancy housing units
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income



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SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TA	Technical Assistance
TAY	Transition Age Youth (usually ages 18-24)
VA	Veterans Affairs (U.S. Department of)
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
VI-SPDAT	Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool